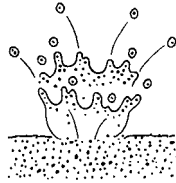


# Crop Production, 2004

By Mark W. Jordan

**2004 Crop & Weather Summary:** The average monthly temperature for January was 20.3 degrees, 5.5 degrees below normal. It was slightly wetter than normal with an average precipitation of 3.27 inches. February temperatures were below normal as the monthly average was 27.0 degrees, 1.3 degrees below normal. The lowest recorded temperature was -19 degrees on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month at Kane. It was a dry February with an average of 2.23 inches of rain, about 86% of normal. The greatest total snowfall for the month was at Laurel Summit with 29 inches. March brought warmer weather as producers were gearing up for a busy season. The average monthly temperature was 39.5 degrees, 2.5 degrees above normal. Temperatures peaked at 80 degrees on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month. Average rainfall for the month was at 2.82 inches, 0.59 inches below normal.



April was warm with abundant rainfall throughout Pennsylvania. It was one of the wettest on record for the state and the rest of the Northeast. On average, 13 days were suitable for field work for the month. Pennsylvania producers were able to get much of their plowing done by month's end. Approximately 8 percent of corn acreage was planted in April. It was the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest May on record as the average temperature was at 63.4 degrees for the month, 5.7 degrees above normal. Rainfall in May was also well above normal as an average of 5.45 inches fell across the state. Sixteen days were suitable for field work for the month. By month's end, producers were near or ahead of the historic pace for all field tasks for the time of year. Roughly 85 percent of corn acreage and over half of soybean acreage had been planted by the end of the month. Producers were also well into their first cuttings of alfalfa hay and timothy clover. June was cooler than normal as the average temperature was only 64.7 degrees. Precipitation was near normal for the month as an average of 4.36 inches of rain fell across the state. Most producers finished planting their corn and soybean acreage during the month, while over half of the barley acreage in the state was harvested. Weather conditions had a negative impact on the quality of hay made for the month as farmers neared completion of the first cutting of alfalfa and began working on the second cutting.

July was very wet with cooler weather as the average temperature stood at 69.3 degrees for the month. The average rainfall for the month was over 7 inches, almost 3 inches above normal. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest July on record. Crop conditions, particularly wheat and oats, declined during the first part of the month. The quality of hay made was also below normal for the month. The barley harvest was completed, and the majority of wheat acreage was harvested during the month. The added moisture aided corn progress as the average height was well above normal the entire month. Cool, wet weather continued in August. Most producers finished harvesting their wheat and oat acreage during the month. The tobacco and potato harvests were in full swing and at or ahead of schedule the entire month. The peach and apple harvests continued from July and were ahead of schedule by month's end. Most producers finished up their second cutting of alfalfa and first cutting of timothy clover in August. It was the wettest September on record as an average of nearly 9 inches fell across the state. This is due mostly to the remnants of Hurricane Ivan, bringing torrential rains to the Ohio Valley and much of the eastern seaboard. Corn harvested for both grain and silage were the main activities of the month. Operators were well ahead of schedule for these tasks as compared to historic trends. The tobacco harvest was completed during the month, and producers also neared completion of the third cutting of alfalfa and second cutting of timothy clover. Barley and wheat were also planted during the month.

October temperatures and precipitation were near normal in 2004. Producers finished up harvesting corn for silage and continued to harvest corn for grain with 63 percent of the state's acreage harvested by month's end. The potato harvest was completed early in the month, and the soybean harvest was well under way. November was warm with precipitation amounts slightly above normal for the month. Producers wrapped up their fourth cutting of alfalfa during the month while continuing to harvest corn and soybeans. December was near normal for both average temperature and precipitation in the state. The first part of the month was spent finishing up the corn and soybean harvests with farmers also preparing for colder weather.

**Small Grains:** Production of winter wheat was 6,615,000 bushels, 7 percent below the previous year. There were 135,000 acres harvested in 2004, 30,000 less than in 2003. Yield was 49 bushels per acre, up from 43 bushels per acre in 2003. There were 6,050,000 bushels of oats produced in 2004, down 7 percent from last year. Harvested acreage was at 110,000 in 2004, the same as 2003. Yield was 55 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from 2003. Barley production for 2004 was 3,410,000 bushels, down 14 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage was at 55,000, down 10,000 acres from 2003. Yield was 62 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year.

**Hay:** Production of all hay in 2004 was 4,296,000 tons, 6 percent above 2003. Total acres harvested was 1,700,000, up 50,000 acres from the previous year. Yield was 2.53 tons per acre, up from 2.47 tons in 2003. Alfalfa hay production was 1,512,000 tons, 8 percent below 2003's production. Alfalfa acreage harvested was 540,000, down 10,000 acres from last year. Yield was 2.80 tons per acre, down from 3.00 in 2003. Other hay production was 2,784,000 tons, up 15 percent from the 2,420,000 tons produced the previous year. Other hay acreage harvested was 1,160,000, up 60,000 acres from 2003. Yield was at 2.4 tons per acre, up 9 percent from the previous year. Haylage production for 2004 was 2,688,000 tons. Haylage harvested acreage was 440,000 with an average yield of 6.11 tons per acre.



**Row Crops:** Corn for grain production was 137,200,000 bushels. Corn harvested for grain amounted to 980,000 acres, up 10 percent from 2003. Yield was 140 bushels per acre, up 25 bushels from the previous year. Corn silage production was 7,200,000 tons, down 10 percent from 2003. Acres harvested for silage totaled 400,000 acres, down 27 percent from last year. The average yield was 18.0 tons per acre, up 3.5 tons from 2003. Soybean production for 2004 was 19,550,000 bushels, up 27 percent from 2003. Harvested soybean acreage was at 425,000, up 50,000 acres from last year. Yield was 46 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from 2003. Potato production was at 2,640,000 cwt., down 22 percent from last year. Acres harvested decreased 1,500 to 11,000 acres. Yield decreased to 240 cwt. per acre. Total production of tobacco was 8,100,000 pounds, up 3 percent from 2003. Total acres harvested was 4,000, up 300 acres from a year ago. All tobacco yield was 2,025 lbs. per acre, down 105 pounds from last year.